made by the Election Commissioner, stressing the need for a minimum standard of education for eligibility to contest elections to the State Legislatures and the Parliament; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(b) what decision and steps, if any, have been taken by Government in the light of the Election Commissioner's statement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) .No, Sir.

(b) No proposal for fixing a minimum standard of education for eligibility to contest elections, is under consideration of the Government.

Supreme Court decision regarding appointment of Judges

2581. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent directives restricted the right of Chief Justice in the matter of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts; if so, what are the implications of the judgement;

(b) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, State-wise at present; and

(c) whether Government have taken initiative to fill up the vacant posts in the light of the above judgement of Supreme Court bench and by when the posts would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Since some doubts and differences arose on -the scope and extent of consultation for appointment of Judges, as envisaged in the Supreme Court's judgment of October 6, 1993, it was decided that the opinion of the Supreme Court may be obtained under Art. 143(1) of the Constitution of India. The Presidential Reference made to the Court has been disposed of by an unanimous opinion whereby the Chief Justice of India is obliged to made appropriate consultation.

(b) The requisite information is enclosed in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) Appropriate steps to fill up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts have been initiated in consultation with concerned Constitutional authorities.

Statement

SI. No.	High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 10.12.1998
1.	Allahabad	28
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15
3.	Bombay	15
4.	Calcutta	17
5.	Delhi	' 7
6.	Gauhati	3
7.	Gujarat	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3 3
10.	Karnataka	6
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8
13.	Madras	7
14.	Orissa	3
15.	Patna	8
16.	Punjab & Haryana	15
17.	Rajasthan	10
18.	Sikkim	2
	TOTAL	161

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SC/ST and OBCs appointed as Notary Public

2582. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many advocates have been appointed Notary Public by the Central Government during the last three years; and

(b) the number out of the above who belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and O.B.Cs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) 702 Advocates have been appointed by the Central Government as Notary Public during the last three years. No separate quota is prescribed for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The application/memorial form prescribed under the Notaries Rules, 1956 does not contain any column for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes for the purpose of maintaining separate account of such categories.

Speedy disposal of road accident cases

2583. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cases are lying pending in the different State High Courts";

(b) whether Government propose to issue necessary directions to the Chief Justice of the High Courts to take adequate measures to dispose the pending cases, particularly the cases of road accidents victims expeditiously in accordance with the objective/spirits of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A request has already been made to the Chief Justices of the High Courts to take measures like grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, computerization of records etc. for expeditious disposal of all pending cases. In addition, the Government have taken a series of steps in this regards. This includes steps for amendment of procedural laws, increase in the number of posts of Judges in the High Courts, provision of a statutory base to Lok Adalats and adoption of other alternative methods of disputes resolution.

Repealing of out-dated laws

2584. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Govern ment-appointed Commission has. recom mended repealing of out-dated 1300 laws out of 2500 existing laws; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted these recommendations and whether it would also be ensured that cumbersome and time consuming pro cedures are streamlined with a view to ensuring speedy justice to the litigant public?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action on the recommendations contained in the Report. Since the recommendations of the Commission concern all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India as well as State Governments/Union territories,